

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09463 281525Z

ACTION SS-25

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-----013199 281544Z /46

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7263

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS EG US
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN PURCHASING SENSORS FROM
U.S. SOURCES

REF: 77 CAIRO 14319

1. AS DEPT AWARE, GOE HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN INTERESTED
IN PURCHASING SENSORS FOR USE IN THE WESTERN DESERT AREAS
BORDERING LIBYA. PARA 4 REFTEL REPORTED GAMASY'S INSTRU-
CTIONS TO SHAWKAT TO ASCERTAIN IF ADEQUATE SENSORS MIGHT
BE AVAILABLE IN EUROPE. IF NOT, GAMASY INDICATED, HE
MIGHT WANT TO APPROACH US. (REFTEL, INCIDENTALLY,
INADVERTENTLY STATED SENSORS WOULD BE USED IN EASTERN
BORDER AREAS. THIS IS INCORRECT.)

2. SINCE THAT TIME SHAWKAT HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS
SPOKEN TO DATT AND ONCE TO AMBASSADOR ABOUT EGYPTIAN
MILITARY REQUIREMENT FOR SENSORS. HE HAS EMPHASIZED
THAT THESE ARE NEEDED FOR THE WESTERN BORDER AREAS WHERE
THE DESERT AREAS ARE VAST AND EMPTY AND LIBYAN INFILTRA-
TION IS A CONSTANT THREAT. SHAWKAT HAS ALSO INDICATED
EUROPEAN-MANUFACTURED SENSORS ARE NOT ADEQUATE. HIS
RECENT VISIT TO SFM HAS AGAIN WHETTED HIS APPETITE FOR
AMERICAN SENSORS.

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3. IN A TALK WITH GAMASY LAST EVENING, HE ASKED ME ABOUT
THE POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING SOME SENSORS IN THE U.S.
HE GAVE NO SPECIFIC NUMBERS, BUT SAID HE SIMPLY WANTED TO
EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY AT THIS TIME. IF IT INVOLVES
A MAJOR PROBLEM WITH THE CONGRESS, HE WOULD NOT WANT TO
PURSUE IT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SENSORS ARE NON-

LETHAL AND PURELY PASSIVE AND HOPED USG MIGHT SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO AUTHORIZING SALE OF SENSORS. HE CONTINUED THAT THEY ARE WANTED FOR USE IN THE WESTERN DESERT AREAS. HE EMPHASIZED HIS QUERY WAS INTENDED TO BE INFORMAL REPEAT INFORMAL AT THIS TIME. IF OUR REPLY IS POSITIVE, WE COULD TALK ABOUT SPECIFICS.

4. COMMENT: GAMASY'S QUERY AGAIN RAISES THE QUESTION OF SENSORS. I WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION FROM DEPT WHETHER WE WOULD BE WILLING TO LICENSE THE SALE OF SENSORS TO GOE FOR USE IN THE WESTERN DESERT. I DID NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF DATT, BG PFAUTZ, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THIS MORNING FOR WASHINGTON AND REQUEST NEA CONTACT HIM THROUGH DIA AND ADVISE HIM OF GAMASY'S LATEST INFORMAL QUERY. ALSO SUGGEST THIS MESSAGE BE PASSED TO DOD FOR ITS INFORMATION. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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